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Cap. 2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Extension Service
Washington 25, D. C.

March 13, 1947

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TO ALL STATE EXTENSION DIRECTORS:

Subject: Current Farm Labor News - #7

The Senate committee on Agriculture and Forestry conducted hearings on S. 724, March 7 and 8. Director F. A. Anderson, Colorado, chairman of the Land-Grant College Committee on Farm Labor, was one of the principal witnesses. The writer endeavored to acquaint the committee with the wide scope and fundamental character of the domestic program. Kenneth Butler of the Labor Branch answered questions on the foreign program.

W. R. Buie, director of Labor Branch, FMA, is in Mexico City, negotiating for Mexican Nationals for 1947.

Labor Branch is working closely with BAI on the precautions to be taken to prevent spread of foot and mouth disease by newly imported Mexican Nationals. As yet the disease has not been found in 9 of the Mexican states from which workers were obtained in 1946.

Montana's Labor Saving Caravan is "meeting widespread approval" according to H. L. Dusenberry, state Farm Labor supervisor. He writes that "we expect between 20 and 25 thousand people to see it during the swing around the circuit", and that "it is very much worthwhile and has done much to assist in labor utilization as well as being a good method of doing Extension teaching".

In Oregon a series of pruning demonstrations is being organized in orchard areas, according to Russel Adams, assistant state Farm Labor supervisor. An opaque projector and black and white pictures will constitute the illustrative material. There will be emphasis on labor utilization and training.

Two forms, developed in Oregon, are enclosed with this letter. The farm information card helps get more intelligent use of seasonal labor supply. The field ticket directs attention to better supervision and management, and is a means of improving service to growers and workers.

Evidence on the use farmers are currently making of Extension Farm Labor offices, comes from Washington. In his weekly news letter, State Supervisor Zuger quotes the Chelan county report which says: "Our farmers' orders to date this year are twice those of the same period in 1945, and three times as many as for the comparable period in 1946. Our placements to date this year are a third greater than for the like period in 1945 and twice those for the comparable period in 1946. You will note by this that our farmers are utilizing our office just as much as before."

H. H. Williamson has returned to the federal office after a visit to Arkansas and Oklahoma in connection with the farm labor program.

Dr. L. M. Vaughan visited two of the farm labor shows in Indiana, and conferred with farm labor staff members at Purdue, last week. This week he is attending the Farm Buildings Conference at Michigan State College.

On March 1, the Illinois Farm Labor survey had been completed in 87 counties and partly completed in 3 additional counties. Tabulation of the information obtained in the survey is under way.

Yours very truly,

Meredith C. Wilson

Meredith C. Wilson
Deputy Director of Extension
Farm Labor Program

Enclosures

(Copy to: Extension directors
and state supervisors)

P. S. Word just received that Senate Committee reported out Farm Labor bill yesterday (March 12). Only change in language of S. 724 is reduction in liquidation period from 90 to 30 days.

